LETTERS

Reject 2 and leave laws alone

Many people in El Paso County object to homosexuality. This letter is directed to such people, and explains why they should vote against Amendment 2 to the state constitution on Election Day, Nov. 3.

The first reason is that a "no" vote will not improve the lot of any gay, lesbian or bisexual. It will simply leave laws as they are, with protection in place in Denver, Boulder, Aspen and two state colleges, but no protection in Colorado Springs or elsewhere.

A second reason is that home rule is important in the traditions of Colorado, and is enshrined in the state constitution. The Colorado Springs City Council last year decided not to establish protection for homosexuals here, and they may have expressed the will of the majority when they did so. But voters in three Colorado cities decided the opposite. What business have we to tell them how to legislate, any more than they have to tell us?

An equally important reason is that nowhere in the United States since Reconstruction days in the former Confederate states have laws gone on the books diminishing civil rights. This amendment is on a par with the "Blacks must be off the streets by sundown" approach to lawmaking that rose in the 1870s.

The list of responsible organizations opposed to Amendment 2 should give any responsible citizen pause. It includes most mainstream Protestant denominations, Jews, some Catholic groups. It includes newspapers (the conservative Pueblo Chieftain), the Colorado Bar Association, corporations, unions and many others. The only organizations advocating Amendment 2 are a few fundamentalist denominations and their supporters. They hope to promote the discomfort many people feel with homosexuals into votes for this unproductive and unnecessary proposal.

Finally, Amendment 2 probably violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. If it passes, it will certainly be challenged in court. Do you want to tie up state resources with such avoidable litigation? As President Bush has said, we already make too many attorneys rich taking each other to court.

— **Paul Kutsche**
Colorado Springs

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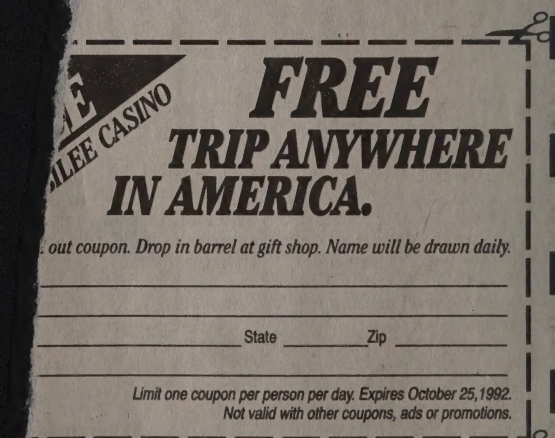
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